

--8. (New) The liquid crystal alignment film according to Claim 5, wherein

X is a single bond or a bivalent organic group selected from -COO-, -OCO-, -CONH- and -NHCO-; and

P is a single bond or a bivalent organic group selected from -O-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CONH- and -NHCO-.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 1-4; and adds new Claim 8. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Support for new Claim 8 is found in original Claim 5. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 5-8 will be pending in the application. Claim 5 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during the December 24, 2002, personal interview.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over JP-02001072770 ("JP-770"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because JP-770 is not prior art to the above-identified application. JP-770 was published on March 21, 2001. In contrast, the above-identified application is entitled to the priority of JP 11-185164 of June 30, 1999. To perfect Applicants' claim to priority under 37 C.F.R. § 1.55, an English-language translation of the JP

11-185164 priority document is attached. Because Applicants' June 30, 1999, priority date is before the March 21, 2001, publication date of JP-770, JP-770 is not prior art to the above-identified application. Therefore, the rejection over JP-770 should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over each of JP06-016601; JP06-16597; JP05-301849; and JP05-117211. Because Claim 1 is canceled, the rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.